

Week Ending Friday, July 12, 2002

Statement on the Death of Ted Williams

July 5, 2002

With the passing of Ted Williams, America lost a baseball legend. Whether serving the country in the Armed Forces or excelling on the baseball diamond, Ted Williams demonstrated unique talent and love of country. He inspired young ballplayers across the Nation for decades, and we will always remember his persistence on the field and his courage off the field. Ted gave baseball some of its best seasons—and he gave his own best seasons to his country. He will be greatly missed.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine

July 6, 2002

President's Birthday

The President. Good morning, everybody.

Q. Happy birthday.

The President. That's the way we like it, up and early.

Q. We do too. [Laughter]

The President. Up and at 'em. Feeling a little older, if you know what I mean.

David [David Gregory, NBC News], how are you, lad?

President's Upcoming Vacation

Q. All right. Sir, now that you're a little older and wiser, are you rethinking avoiding spending all of August here?

The President. No, I think—I think you'll like Crawford.

Former President Bush. It's warmer there.

Q. Do you have any words of wisdom for him on the vacation schedule?

Former President Bush. I've got words of wisdom for Eric. He ought to get out of there.

The President. Get out of there, Eric. [Laughter]

[At this point, the President continued to prepare for his golf outing.]

President's Hat

Q. What does your hat say?

The President. *El Jefe*. That's French. [Laughter]

Q. I was going to sing for you in another language.

The President. Thank you, sir. That's an inside joke.

[The President continued to prepare for his golf outing.]

Former President Bush. No laughing about the ladies' tee.

President's Birthday

Q. Sir, what do you want for your birthday?

The President. I don't know yet. I haven't thought about it. First of all, I'm glad—I'm glad my mother and wife remembered. [Laughter]

[The President prepared to tee off.]

The President. Yes, Mr. President. Nice, gentle applause rippling throughout the gallery.

See you in a couple hours—like 2.

[The round of golf proceeded.]

The President. I apologize.

Q. Yes, right.

The President. Miserable shot.

Q. You didn't have any idea where we were, either, did you?

The President. It's clear I didn't have any idea where the ball was going—

Q. Mr. President, it's up by the tree, sir.

The President. Who kicked it under there? [Laughter]